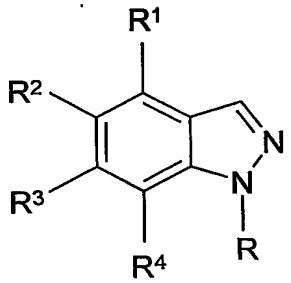
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making a 1-alkylindazole comprising:
   (a) the nitrosation and reduction-cyclization of a 2-alkylaminobenzonitrile to form a 1-alkyl-3-aminoindazole; and (b)
   (b) deamination of the 1-alkyl-3-aminoindazole to form a 1-alkylindazole.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the 1-alkylindazole is a 1-(hydroxyalkyl)indazole.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the (hydroxyalkyl)indazole has the formula:



wherein R is a C_2 to C_{12} (hydroxy)alkyl group optionally substituted with phenyl, methoxyphenyl, (dimethylamino)phenyl, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$, or with one or more F atoms;

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently H, F, Cl, Br, CF_3, OH, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$, NO_2, CN, N_3, SH, $S(O)_nR^5$, $C(=O)R^5$, COOH, $COOR^5$, $CON(R^5)_2$, C_1 to C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, methoxyphenyl, (dimethylamino)phenyl, $C(=O)R^5$, COOH, $COOR^5$, $CON(R^5)_2$, CN, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, or $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$; or R^1 and R^2 as herein defined taken together form a ring, or R^2 and R^3 as herein defined taken together form a ring, or R^3 and R^4 as herein defined taken together form a ring;

R^5 is C_1 to C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, methoxyphenyl, (dimethylamino)phenyl, methoxy, ethoxy, benzyloxy, or with one or more F atoms, or R^5 is phenyl, methoxyphenyl, or (dimethylamino)phenyl; and

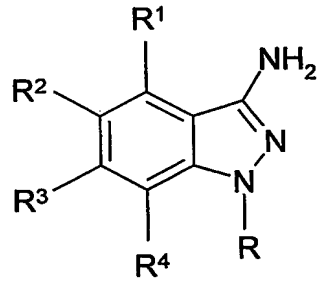
n = 0, 1, or 2.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein R is a C_2 to C_6 (hydroxy)alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, OR^5, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$, or with one or more F atoms;

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently H, F, Cl, CF_3, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$, NO_2, CN, $C(=O)R^5$, $COOR^5$, $CON(R^5)_2$, C_1 to C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, $C(=O)R^5$, $COOR^5$, $CON(R^5)_2$, CN, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, or $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$; or R^1 and R^2 as herein defined taken together form a ring, or R^2 and R^3 as herein defined taken together form a ring, or R^3 and R^4 as herein defined taken together form a ring;

R^5 is C_1 to C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, methoxyphenyl, methoxy, benzyloxy, or with one or more F atoms.

5. A 1-alkyl-3-amino indazole having the formula



wherein R is a C_2 to C_{12} (hydroxy)alkyl group optionally substituted with phenyl, methoxyphenyl, (dimethylamino)phenyl, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$, or with one or more F atoms;

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently H, F, Cl, Br, CF_3, OH, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$, NO_2, CN, N_3, SH, $S(O)_nR^5$, $C(=O)R^5$, COOH, $COOR^5$, $CON(R^5)_2$, C_1 to C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, methoxyphenyl, (dimethylamino)phenyl, $C(=O)R^5$, COOH, $COOR^5$, $CON(R^5)_2$, CN, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, or $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$; or R^1 and R^2 as herein defined taken together form a ring, or R^2 and R^3 as herein defined taken together form a ring, or R^3 and R^4 as herein defined taken together form a ring;

R^5 is C_1 to C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, methoxyphenyl, (dimethylamino)phenyl, methoxy, ethoxy, benzyloxy, or with one or more F atoms, or R^5 is phenyl, methoxyphenyl, or (dimethylamino)phenyl; and

n = 0, 1, or 2.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein

R is a C_2 to C_6 (hydroxy)alkyl group optionally substituted with phenyl, OR^5, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$, or with one or more F atoms;

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently H, F, Cl, CF_3, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$, NO_2, CN, $C(=O)R^5$, $COOR^5$, $CON(R^5)_2$, C_1 to C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, $C(=O)R^5$, $COOR^5$, $CON(R^5)_2$, CN, OR^5, $OC(=O)R^5$, $OC(=O)OR^5$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^5)C(=O)R^5$, or $N(R^5)C(=O)OR^5$; or R^1 and R^2 as herein defined taken together form a ring, or R^2 and R^3 as herein defined taken together form a ring, or R^3 and R^4 as herein defined taken together form a ring; and

R^5 is C_1 to C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl, methoxyphenyl, methoxy, benzyloxy, or with one or more F atoms, or R^5 is phenyl or methoxyphenyl.